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P/S. return to #W after laughing!

Austin Burton — He's Running Again (Monitor Photo By Ken Williams)

Chief Burning Wood Back On Political Trail

By BARRY FIELDS

'A "new" Chief Burning Wood has entered the political scene in New Hampshire.

The man is the same — Austin Burton — and his slogan is the same — "Give the country back to the Indians" — but his attitude is different.

Burton entered the 1968 N.H. presidential preference primary as a republican vice presidential candidate and surprisingly walked off with the most votes.

Burton topped all names for the GOP vice presidential preference with 10,987 votes. This placed him well ahead of such nationally-known Republicans as Claude Kirk, then governor of Florida, who got 4,842 votes; John A. Volpe, now secretary of transportation, who got 5,611 votes; Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, with 4,108 votes.

Burton's campaign then was noted for its flamboyance. An Indian headdress with downy white feathers was draped down his back. Posters and little trinkets were given to passers-by; an all-girl band played his songs.

Chief Burning Wood was a showman who had people listening to his ideas.

But the chief didn't have the headdress when he came to Concord yesterday — it was ruined in a flood while stored at a Hopi Indian reservation in the Midwest, he said. And there were no trinkets, or posters, or all-girl bands.

Burton is a man who thinks he will again win the vice presidential candidacy of the Republican Party in the March 7, 1972 presidential primary.

"Mainly because no one else will probably seek the office," he said.

Burton is back in politics after spending almost two years in Panama. He went there, he said, to avoid the surveillance of Secret Service agents bent on "ending" his career.

He claims "Washington politics" forced him out of the country, out of business and now back into the thick of things.

"(President) Nixon made me get back into politics," Burton said. "After all those things he did to get rid of me, I just want to get even."

Burton said he was forced to sell-out his psychedelic poster shop in New York City's Greenwich Village because of Nixon tactics. "So I mailed Nixon, Sen. Norris Cotton, R-N.H., and Hoover (J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director) equal shares to my store. They own it now," he said.

Nixon, he said, sent men to follow him all over the country.

Although running as a Republican, Burton would like to have Maine's Democratic Sen. Edmund S. Muskie as his presidential running-mate.

"Muskie helped get me back into the country and I think he will make a good President. Besides, it's a foregone conclusion that Nixon will ask Connally (Nixon's Democratic secretary of the Treasury) to be his running-mate so why can't I ask a Democrat.

Burton's campaign will focus on the inflation that he feels is ruining the country. "If we don't put the gold standard back behind the dollar, our dollars will only be worth 20 cents."

He feels the Vietnam was is not an issue in the campaign, but sees it as the cause behind the monetary problems plaguing the United States.

Campaign plans are vague to even Burton at the moment. "I don't really know what I plan to do right now. I've been away so long I just want to get my bearings straight."

Burton knows he must get 500 signatures from registered voters in each of the state's two congressional districts as a requirement to file for the primary.

A $500 check, made out to the N.H. Secretary of State Robert L. Stark, already is in Burton's possession.

"This is going to be a much more serious campaign than in 1968," Burton said. "I really think I can win."

Austin Burton
New Hampshire Highway Hotel
Concord, N. H.